

In the claims:

1-3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) A purified antibody that binds to a hLH β core fragment and competitively inhibits the binding of a B505 antibody, produced by the hybridoma having ATCC Designation No. HB-12000, to the hLH β core fragment.

5-26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) A method for determining the amount of hLH β core fragment (hLH β cf) or hLH β cf-related molecule in a sample comprising steps of:

- (a) contacting the sample with an antibody which specifically binds to hLH β cf without cross-reacting with hLH, hLH β or hCG β cf, wherein the antibody is produced by the hybridoma cell line accorded ATCC Accession No. 12000, or with a purified antibody that binds to the hLH β cf and competitively inhibits the binding of a B505 antibody, produced by the hybridoma having ATCC Designation No. HB-12000, to the hLH β core fragment, under conditions permitting formation of a complex between the antibody and hLH β cf; and
- (b) determining the amount of complex formed, thereby determining the amount of hLH β cf or hLH β cf-related molecule in the sample.

28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) A method for determining the amount of hLH β core fragment (hLH β cf) or hLH β cf-related molecule in a sample comprising steps of:

- (a) contacting at least one capturing antibody selected from the group consisting of B503, B504 and B509 with a solid matrix under conditions permitting binding of the capturing antibody with the solid matrix;
- (b) contacting the bound matrix with the sample under conditions permitting binding of the antigen present in the sample with the capturing antibody;
- (c) separating the bound matrix and the sample;
- (d) contacting the separated bound matrix with an antibody which specifically binds to hLH β cf without cross reacting with hLH, hLH β or hCG β cf, wherein the antibody is a B505 antibody or a purified antibody that binds to the hLH β cf and competitively inhibits the binding of a B505 antibody, produced by the hybridoma having ATCC Designation No. HB-12000, to the hLH β cf, under conditions permitting binding of antibody and antigen in the sample; and
- (e) determining the amount of bound antibody on the bound matrix, thereby determining the amount of hLH β cf or hLH β cf-related molecule in the sample.

30. (canceled)

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein step (c) comprises:

- (i) removing of the sample from the matrix; and

(ii) washing the bound matrix with an appropriate buffer.

32. (canceled)

33. (canceled).

34. (canceled)

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 27[[,]] or 29 ~~or~~ 32, wherein the antibody which binds to hLH β cf is labeled with a detectable marker.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the detectable marker is a radioactive isotope, enzyme, dye or biotin.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the radioactive isotope is I¹²⁵.

38. (currently amended) A method of detecting ovulation in a female subject comprising:

(a) obtaining three or more samples from the female subject, each sample being obtained at a time point different than those at which the other samples are obtained; and

(b) determining the amount of hLH β core fragment (hLH β cf) ~~or hLH β cf related molecule~~ in the samples each sample, which determination comprises (i) contacting the sample with an antibody which specifically binds to the hLH β cf without cross-reacting with hLH, hLH β or hCG β cf, wherein the

antibody is a purified antibody that binds to a hLH β cf and competitively inhibits the binding of a B505 antibody, produced by the hybridoma having ATCC Designation No. HB-12000, under conditions permitting formation of a complex between the antibody and the hLH β cf and (ii) determining the amount of complex formed, thereby determining the amount of hLH β cf in the sample;[[,]] and
(c) plotting the amounts of hLH β cf determined in step (b) versus time, whereby the presence of a peak in the plot of hLH β cf indicating indicates the occurrence of ovulation.

39. (canceled)

40. (currently amended) The method of claim 39 38, wherein the antibody which binds to hLH β cf is labeled with a detectable marker.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the detectable marker is a radioactive isotope, enzyme, dye or biotin.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the radioactive isotope is I¹²⁵.

43. (previously presented) A method for reducing the amount of hLH β core fragment (hLH β cf) or hLH β cf-related molecule in a sample comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting the sample with an antibody which specifically binds to hLH β cf without cross-reacting with hLH, hLH β or hCG β cf, wherein the antibody

is a purified antibody that binds to the hLH β cf and competitively inhibits the binding of the B505 antibody, produced by the hybridoma having ATCC Designation No. HB-12000, to the hLH β core fragment, under conditions permitting formation of a complex between the antibody and hLH β cf; and

(b) removing the complex formed, thereby reducing the amount of hLH β cf or hLH β cf-related molecule in the sample.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the removing step comprises:

(i) contacting the complex with protein A under conditions permitting formation of a complex between protein A and an antibody; and

(ii) removing the complex formed, thereby removing the amount of hLH β cf or hLH β cf-related molecule in the sample.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising contacting the complex with a secondary antibody under conditions permitting binding of this secondary antibody with the first antibody prior to step (i).

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the antibody is linked to a solid matrix.

47. (canceled)

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48. (currently amended) The method of claim 27, 29, ~~32~~, 38 or 43, wherein the sample is a urine sample or a blood sample.